

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 04522 180939Z

53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

MC-02 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 ACDA-19 OMB-01 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /101 W

----- 031285

R 180835Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2392

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 4522

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TW

SUBJ: ROC INTEREST IN TARGET DRONES

REF: STATE 141742

1. THERE IS VALID NEED FOR TARGET DRONES FOR ROC AIR FORCE (ROCAF) AAA TRAINING. ROCAF HAS VIRTUALLY DEPLETED ITS SUPPLY OF OLD 200-KNOW OQ-19 PROP DRONES AND RECENTLY PURCHASED 36 NORTHROP KD2R-5 DRONES FOR AAA GUNNERY PRACTICE. TOTAL COST WAS US\$400,000 INCLUDING SUPPORT EQUIPMENT. LATTER DRONE (ALSO KNOWN AS BASIC TRAINING TARGET OR MQM-36A AERIAL TARGET) IS CURRENTLY INOPERATIONAL DUE TO GUIDANCE AND CONTROL PROBLEMS. IT IS GROUND-LAUNCHED, HAS 60 POUND PAYLOAD, AND DOES NOT POSSESS GYROS FOR OUT-OF-SIGHT CAPABILITY. NORTHROP IS SEEKING TO CORRECT KD2-R DEFICIENCIES.

2. HIGH-SPEED (BUT SUB-SONIC) OUT-OF SIGHT DRONE WITH INFRA-RED (IR) PRESENTATION CAPABILITY IS ESSENTIAL FOR UVM-9 MISSILE TRAINING. PRIOR TO 1970, ROC CONTRACTED THROUGH MICOM FOR HAWK FIRING PRESENTATIONS USING RYAN FIREBEE/TOWBEE EQUIPMENT. HIGH ANNUAL COST OF OVER US\$400,000 FORCED SUSPENSION OF FIRINGS AND NO HAWK ANNUAL PRACTICE FIRINGS HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE THEN. IN OCTOBER 1973

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TAIPEI 04522 180939Z

NORTHROP OFFERED ROC SIMILAR PROGRAM USING CHUKAR II

(MQM-74) DRONES BUT THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT SAVING BETWEEN USE OF RYAN AND NORTHROP EQUIPMENT AND CONTRACT WAS DEFERRED AGAIN BECAUSE OF HIGH COST.

3. OTHER TYPES OF TARGET DRONES WITH HIGH SPEED (300 KNOTS PLUS AND 300-400 NM RANGE) ARE AVAILABLE BOTH FROM US AND THIRD-COUNTRY SOURCES. DRONES IN THIS CLASS, SUCH AS FIREBEE AND CHUKAR, HAVE POTENTIAL FOR MODIFICATION FOR OTHER ROLES. IN SEPTEMBER 1973, ROC EXPRESSED INTEREST TO MAAG IN DRONE WITH AIRBORNE LAUNCH CAPABILITY WHICH COULD BE USED IN BOTH RECONNAISSANCE AND BOMBING MISSIONS. WHILE WE DO NOT HAVE FULL SPECIFICATIONS ON EXTENT TO WHICH RPV OF FIREBEE OR CHUKAR TYPE MIGHT BE MODIFIED TO OFFENSIVE/PROVOCATIVE ROLE, WE DO NOT UNDER-ESTIMATE ROC INVENTIVENESS.

4. BOTH US AND ROC PLACE HIGHEST PRIORITY ON ADEQUATE AIR DEFENSE FOR ROC. HAWK MISSILE CONVERSION TO IMPROVED HAWK, TOGETHER WITH CO-PRODUCTION OF F5E, ARE KEY ELEMENTS IN UPGRADED AIR DEFENSE. COUNTRY TEAM ENDORSES ROC NEED FOR TARGET DRONE FOR HIGH-SPEED (SUB-SONIC) OUT-(*-SIGHT HAWK PRACTICE FIRINGS AS WELL AS FOR LIMITED AIR-TO-AIR TARGETING FOR F5ES. SINCE WE WISH DETER ROC ACQUISITION OR DEVELOPMENT OF A RECONNAISSANCE DRONE FOR PENETRATION OF PRC AREAS, WE HOPE TO EXPLORE FURTHER THE AVAILABILITY OF LOWER-COST VEHICLES WITH ALL NECESSARY CAPABILITIES FOR HAWK TARGETING, YET WITH RANGE AND PAYLOAD LIMITATIONS THAT WOULD REDUCE ITS RECON/ORDINANCE CARRYING THREAT.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS.

A. THAT DEPARTMENT DENY NORTHROP REQUEST TO RELEASE TECHNICAL DATA TO GROC ON CHUKAR II.

B. THAT COUNTRY TEAM BE FURNISHED DATA ON APZSNVAILABLE HIGH-SPEED DRONES WITH IR PRESENTATION CAPABILITY WHICH MIGHT MEET LIMITATIONS DESCRIBED PRECEDING PARA.

C. SHOULD US BE UNABLE TO SELL RELATIVELY "SAFE" DRONE WITH DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS, COUNTRY TEAM RECOMMENDS THAT FIRINGS BE ACCOMPLISHED ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS WHICH WOULD NOT PLACE DRONES IN HANDS OF GROC TECH-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TAIPEI 04522 180939Z

NICIANS FOR EXTENDED R&D EXPLOITATION. SINCE HIGH COST HAS FORCED LENGTHY POSTPONEMENT OF ESSENTIAL HAWK PRACTICE, WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON US FIRMS WHICH CONTRACT FOR HIGH-SPEED TARGET DRONE FIRINGS AT LOWER COST THAN FOR FIREBEE OR CHUKAR. UNGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL TRAINING, SAM, OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TAIPEI04522
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740193-0438
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740736/aaaabexv.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 141742
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROC INTEREST IN TARGET DRONES
TAGS: MASS, TW, US, NORTHROP CORPORATION
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005